

Week 2
Supplementary material
English for migrant activists

WHAT IS SIMPLE PAST TENSE?

The Simple Past tense is used to talk about actions or events that happened in the past.

Structure:

- Positive: Subject + past verb form
 - *She worked in a factory.*
 - *They arrived last night.*
- Negative: Subject + did not + base verb
 - *He did not understand the law.*
 - *We did not receive the documents.*
- Question: Did + subject + base verb?
 - *Did you attend the meeting?*
 - *Did she apply for asylum?*

Common Uses:

- Talking about past events: *She moved to this country last year.*
- Describing completed actions: *The government passed a new law.*
- Explaining personal experiences: *I met many people at the protest.*

Examples Related to Migrant Issues

1. *Maria arrived in the city two years ago.*
2. *They applied for refugee status last month.*
3. *He did not know his worker rights before the training.*
4. *The organization helped many families last year.*
5. *Did you attend the community meeting?*

6. *Did the lawyer explain the process to you?*
7. *We did not receive any support when we arrived.*

Tip:

- Regular verbs end in "-ed" (work → worked, help → helped).
- Irregular verbs change completely (go → went, see → saw).

Practice Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct past verb form

1. She ____ (learn) about her rights last week.
2. They ____ (not have) enough food when they arrived.
3. The organization ____ (provide) free legal aid.
4. He ____ (not know) where to find work.
5. ____ you ____ (attend) the protest?

B. Rewrite the sentences in negative form

1. The migrants found a safe shelter. → _____
2. She spoke to a human rights lawyer. → _____
3. The workers received their wages on time. → _____
4. He knew about the visa application process. → _____
5. They stayed in a temporary camp. → _____

C. Discussion Questions

- What challenges did you face when you arrived in a new country?
- How did organizations or communities support migrants in the past?
- Why is it important to learn about past experiences of migrants?
